

ODD GOAL VICTORY FOR LUTON

AND OPPONENT WAS THE SCORER

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN just about deserved their success over Bristol City, but it was a grim struggle to retain the lead given to them by fortuitous circumstances fourteen minutes after the start. The goal was scored by ROBERTS, the City back, who, disquieted by the attentions of Thayne, never looked for the assistance of his goalkeeper before passing back, and the ball went into the goal which Dolman had vacated.

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WHETHER it was this misfortune that worried the City and rattled them, I do not know, but they certainly overdid the rough stuff, and, in addition to a very liberal use of their weight, one or two of them adopted tactics that were discreditable. Praise could be given to the team for the manner in which they held out against the Town, and for the spirit with which they fought back right to the end, and often they troubled the Town defenders.

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STILL, it was largely the excellence of Dolman, the City custodian, that restricted the margin of success. He made many very fine saves, two or three when the



W. CROMPTON

crowd were half-shouting for goals. Perhaps he was lucky, too, the referee did not award goals against him—at least once—when Crompton bundled him over the line as he was holding the ball. There was a like appeal from the City players once against Coen, but the Town goalkeeper was well on the right side of the line.

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PLAY was vigorous, and a hard pace was maintained on the heavy going, and possibly this had something to do with the fraying of tempers before the end. Thayne was very badly fouled, and the crowd clamoured for drastic action against a City full-back, but the referee had not seen the incident, his back being turned. This was not the only time Thayne was in the wars:

he gamely challenged the big defenders all the time, and they disliked his temerity.

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THE TOWN had the better style and understanding, and they gave the better football. The City's methods were kick and rush, though, now and then, the forwards produced clever combination, and, on one or two occasions in the first half, they should have scored. Their opportunities, however, were not so frequent by a long way as the Town's, and it was just the lack of finishing temper that spoiled the Town machine. Had they finished as skilfully as they advanced, they would have had a decisive margin.

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FOR A FAIR PERIOD before the interval, and, in the last ten minutes, when several Town players were crocked, the City had the better of the game, and were only beaten off by a defence that had courage and coolness, and fine judgment in obstruction. The Town were superior for much the greater part of the game.

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COEN had not a great deal of work, thanks to the skill and soundness of the men in front of him. Mackey was again a prominent figure, with Smith also doing very well, while Nelson was a tower of strength as usual. The Town centre-half has become very popular with the supporters, and his steadiness under pressure is a big asset.

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FINLAYSON and Fellowes were not quite so prominent as usual, though they were good in support of their forwards, but were found too far out of position sometimes by the nippy Bristol attackers. There was not always the good understanding between backs and half-backs as there has been, but there was no general failure.

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THAYNE tried his utmost as usual, and, against a less energetic and less vigorous defence, he would probably have scored. Though he did not find the opportunities that were expected, he tried to make them, and if his colleagues had been a little closer up on two or three occasions, there would have been real opportunities for them, as Thayne had taken the brunt of the attack. All the forwards worked hard, and there was nothing to grumble about in any way except that they could have finished their work better.

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DOLMAN was a very fine goalkeeper, and Roberts and Hick were rugged backs. The halves were warriors and worriers, with Pearce again a power in the middle. Now and then the forwards were clever, but they had very few scoring chances.

LUTON TOWN 1

(Roberts, own goal)

BRISTOL CITY 0

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Crompton, Martin, Thayne, Roberts, Stephenson.

BRISTOL CITY.—Dolman; Roberts, Hick; Morgan, Pearce, Brinton; M'Gurk, White, Bungay, Turner, Caine.

Referee.—A. A. Horwood, Kingston-on-Thames.